

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-09 AID-05 HEW-06

SCA-01 SCSE-00 EB-07 AGR-10 /142 W
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INFO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

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TAGS: EAID, UNDP

SUBJ: 19TH UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL - ITEM 20 -

PROBLEMS EMANATING FROM THE DROUGHT IN SOMALIA

FOLLOWING IS THE STATEMENT GIVEN BY THE US DELEGATION
(EVANS) BEFORE THE 19TH GC ON SUBJECT ITEM ON 24 JANUARY
1975.

"CRP 3, AND ITS ADDENDA REPRESENT A VIVID, TIMELY ACCOUNT
OF THE PROBLEMS EMANATING FROM THE DROUGHT IN SOMALIA.
WE ARE SADDENED BY THE SCOPE AND RELENTLESS NATURE OF
THIS DROUGHT BUT ALSO ARE ENCOURAGED BY THE GOVERNMENT
OF SOMALIA'S REPRESENTATIVE AND MR. STEDMAN'S REPORT
OF THE FULL-SCALE EFFORT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SOMALIA
TO STRENGTHEN ITS MAJOR CRASH RELIEF PROGRAM.

MY DELEGATION FULLY SUPPORTS DRAFT DECISION CRP 6 NOW
BEFORE THE COUNCIL AND DESIRES TO JOIN FORMALLY AS A CO-
SPONSOR. THE MEDIUM-TERM ASSISTANCE FROM UNDP AS SET
FORTH IN CRP 3 SHOULD BEGIN AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE MOMENT.
THE PROJECTS PROPOSED ARE DIRECTLY RELEVANT TO A RAPID
REHABILITATION EFFORT. WE LOOK FORWARD TO A FURTHER PROGRESS
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REPORT AT THE 20 TH SESSION ON THE IMPACT OF DROUGHT IN

SOMALIA ALONG WITH THE OTHER AFFECTED COUNTRIES.

BUT THE IMMEDIATE EMERGENCY RELIEF EFFORT IS ALSO OF CONCERN TO THIS COUNCIL. HERE THE U.S. DELEGATION MUST AGAIN ACCENTUATE THE CRITICAL ROLE BEING PLAYED BY THE UN DISASTER RELIEF COORDINATOR. MY GOVERNMENT IS FULLY COORDINATING ITS ESCALATING EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA WITH UNDRO, AS WELL AS, WITH THE WELL ORGANIZED GOVERNMENT OF SOMALIA. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE ENCOURAGE ALL MULTILATERAL AND BILATERAL DONORS TO BE FORTHCOMING AND TO COORDINATE ITS ASSISTANCE WITH UNDRO. SINCE CRP-3 AND ITS ADDENDA DO NOT MENTION RECENT U.S. EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO THE GOVERNMENT OF SOMALIA, MAY WE BRIEFLY SUMMARIZE ITS PRESENT ELEMENTS:

USG RESPONSE TO DATE: INCLUDE A:

A) \$25,000 CASH GIFT TO SOMALI RED CRESCENT SOCIETY ON DECEMBER 10TH.

B) THE HIGH SEAS DIVERSION TO SOMALIA OF 1,410 TONS OF BISCUITS TO MOGADISCIO WHICH WERE OFF LOADED BETWEEN 25-30 DECEMBER AND ARE ALREADY BEING USED IN THE CAMPS. THIS SHIPMENT OF BISCUITS IS VALUED AT APPROXIMATELY \$3 MILLION.

C) 7,000 WOOL BLANKETS AND 200 FAMILY TENTS WHICH WERE REQUESTED BY THE SOMALIA RED CRESCENT AND GOVERNMENT OF SOMALIA AND WHICH WERE AIR SHIPPED TO SOMALIA THIS WEEK.

D) THE USG HAS UNDER ACTIVE REVIEW A REQUEST FOR UP TO 15,000 TONS OF PL-480 TITLE II EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE IN THE FORM OF WHEAT AND SORGHUM.

THE US AMBASSADOR TO SOMALIA ALONG WITH OTHER DIPLOMATIC OFFICIALS HAS VISITED A NUMBER OF THE RELIEF CAMPS AND HAS PRAISED THE LAUDATORY MANNER IN WHICH THE GOVERNMENT OF SOMALIA HAS SET UP AND IS OPERATING THE CAMPS.

THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE, THROUGH OUR DELEGATION, EXPRESS TO THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF SOMALIA OUR FULLEST SUPPORT AT THIS TIME OF NATIONAL DISASTER CAUSED BY THE CURRENT DROUGHT. WE FERVENTLY HOPE THAT EARLY RAINS WILL COME PERMITTING THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITY FOR DETERMINED GOVERNMENT OF SOMALIA EFFORTS AT RE-
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HABILITATION OF ITS SUFFERING PEOPLE AND LONGER-TERM RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT.
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